

Citizens Advisory Committee for Marietta Parks (CACMP)  
Minutes of the Meeting on August 12, 2010  
Fire Station #1, Training Room

A public meeting of CACMP was called to order promptly at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim King. Members present were Kim Gresh, Betty Hunter, Alan Watkins, Randy Weiner, Cindy Suto, Larry Ceminsky, Mitch Hunter, Jim Morris, Walter Moon, Michelle Cooper Kelly, Michael Helenek, Deborah Huwaldt, Bill Hagemann.

**The proposed minutes of the July 15, 2010, CACMP meeting were adopted unanimously after a motion by Kim Gresh and a second by Larry Ceminsky.**

**Jim King** announced 6-4-3 DP Baseball Academy and City Council have successfully negotiated a lease with the city for Aviation Park. The lease is considerably different than we recommended, primarily because of contentious issues like the length of commitment. It includes 20% discounts for city residents and some currently undefined program of scholarships for indigent persons.

**Jim King** announced that the City Council had voted unanimously to appoint **Johnny Sinclair** as the Council liaison to the CACMP Real Estate Acquisition Sub-committee.

**Kim Gresh** reported for the Parks Improvement Sub-committee. They enjoyed working with 6-4-3DP and expect them to develop a quality program at Aviation Park. **Rich Buss** will try to coordinate the park revitalization with the organizations that are installing the new multi-county trail. The trail will pass over the back of the park and Rich is trying to insure that the work is efficient and does not interfere with the ball season next year.

**Jim Morris** made a presentation for the Recreation Center Sub-committee which included a written plan for the replacement of LSRC. The plan envisions raising the current building and pool facilities on site and replacing them with a moderate-sized community center featuring a large meeting room that can be subdivided into several smaller spaces, a kitchen to include a commercial ice machine, refrigerator and food warming facility instead of a commercial kitchen. The outside of the facility should include a covered outdoor pavilion and basic BBQ grills appropriate for group picnics and similar gatherings. The outdoor facility should include a Splash Ground for people to play and cool in during hot weather. The undeveloped portions of the grounds should be park like. A portion of the back of the property may be appropriate for a community garden. Much discussion was generated and there was some sympathy expressed for selling this property and devoting the money to creating a large recreation center on the current Elizabeth Porter Recreation Center (EPRC) site. **A motion was made by Walter Moon and seconded by Jim Morris to recommend the Sub-committee's written plan to City Council. Morris suggested seeking Council approval for the concept and permission for us to move forward with professional help to decide if and how those recommendations will physically fit the site and how they will cost out. The Committee voted unanimously to support the motion with Larry Ceminsky abstaining.**

The Sub-committee made a second report on the planning for EPRC. They recommend that City Council consider that the recreation centers in Marietta have traditionally been staffed by one or two people whose primary duty has been to keep the peace within the facility. An important part of its mission was to provide a safe place for children to stay after school and during the summer; many of those children lived near the recreation centers because the centers were placed close to public housing properties. The public housing projects have all been closed except for Fort Hills and there is no longer a compelling need to dedicate these centers to the task of providing day care. Another historic feature of Marietta recreation centers is that the services they provide are free or nearly free, first-come-first-served. Other nearby communities including Smyrna and Roswell have developed high quality recreation centers that serve the whole community and are considered an essential part of the pride-of-place for those residents. Part of the reason that those facilities are constantly full of people is that the recreation centers provide quality programming, led by competent instructors who present on a regular and dependable schedule. The Sub-committee displayed examples of the program offerings from competing communities. If a key to building loyalty at these recreation centers is providing quality recreation options, an important piece of that is pay-for-service. Other recreation centers require users to pay for the programming they use; residents may pay somewhat less than non-residents, but everybody pays. We expect to recommend that our City Council direct our P&R Department to study and advise Council on how to staff programs appropriate for a new recreation center and to start planning how to address the costs of staffing the new recreation center. Additionally, we expect to report in the future that the amount of money available in the bond may be inadequate to build more than a "starter recreation center," certainly a huge improvement over what we have now but not one that is adequate to serve the needs of our population. We should immediately start exploring ways to leverage our bond money to attract additional money, perhaps from CDBG, stimulus funds, etc. The new EPRC will likely be built in modules and expanded in the future but that will be a lot easier to do if the initial project created by this Council attracts a faithful group of users when it opens. No vote was sought at this time but the discussion points will be refined and presented as a motion to the next meeting.

The Land Acquisition Sub-committee report by **Michael Helenek** informed us that the property issues around EPRC are still being assessed but progress is being made. This group has opened lines of communication with Cobb County and **Mayor Tumlin**.

The Trail and Connectivity Sub-Committee members have not established communication with Life University or with the military on connectivity issues between Burruss and Wildwood. **Alan Watkins made a motion to invite the new Base Commander to our next meeting. Jim Morris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The next meeting will be on September 16, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the same location.

Respectfully submitted, this 13th day of August, 2010

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Jim Morris, Secretary